

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) Process for the preparation of urea granules in a fluid bed granulator comprising:
forming a fluid bed of urea particles above a distribution plate in a fluid bed granulator by introducing fluidization air containing very finely atomized water droplets through at least one inlet of the granulator; and to thereby ~~form a fluid bed of urea particles above a distribution plate in the granulator; and~~
spraying a urea melt having a concentration of urea therein of higher than 97wt.% from sprayers of the granulator so that the urea melt is sprayed on or over the urea particles present in the fluid bed, wherein the urea ~~which~~ particles are kept in motion by the fluidization air.
2. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the fluidization air contains 0.0001-10 wt. % of water relative to the sprayed amount of urea melt.
3. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, comprising adding the water droplets to the fluidization air below the distribution plate.
4. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, comprising adding the water droplets to the fluidization air in one or more supply lines for the fluidization air.
5. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, comprising adding the water droplets to the fluidization air by atomization from one or more sprayers in the supply line for the fluidization air.

6. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, comprising adding the water droplets to the fluidization air at or just above an elevation of the distribution plate in the granulator.
7. (previously presented) Process according to claim 6, comprising adding the water droplets to the fluidization air at 0-50 cm above the distribution plate.
8. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the maximum size of the atomized water droplets is less than 50 μm .
9. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the urea concentration of the urea melt is higher than 98 wt. %.
10. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the total amount of urea dust in the fluidization air leaving the granulator is less than 2 wt. % of the amount of the urea melt supplied to the granulator.
11. (previously presented) Granulator for the granulation of urea comprising:
an inlet for introducing fluidization air into the granulator,
a distribution plate,
sprayers mounted in the distribution plate for spraying a urea melt into the granulator so as to form urea particles above the distribution plate, the urea particles being kept in motion by the fluidization air introduced through the inlet so as to form a fluid bed of the urea particles above the distribution plate, and
water atomizers mounted below, in or above the distribution plate for atomizing water and introducing atomized water droplets into the fluidization air.
12. (currently amended) Granulator according to claim 11, wherein the water atomizers comprise at least one selected from the group consisting of two-phase sprayers and sonic sprayers.

13. (previously presented) Granulator according to claim 11, comprising one or more supply lines for supplying the fluidization air to the inlet, wherein the water atomizers are mounted in the one or more supply lines for the fluidization air.
14. (currently amended) Process for revamping a granulator for the granulation of urea comprising an inlet for fluidization air, a distribution plate above which the fluid bed is present and sprayers that are mounted in the distribution plate, from which the urea melt is sprayed, the process comprising mounting water atomizers below, in or above the distribution plate and introducing water droplets into the fluidization air by atomizing water through the water atomizers and thereby introduce water droplets into the fluidization air.
15. (previously presented) Process according to claim 14, wherein the water atomizers are mounted in one or more supply lines for the fluidization air.